

Message Text

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46

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 EB-11 AGR-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01 L-03

NSC-10 IGA-02 INR-10 CIAE-00 RSR-01 RSC-01 /130 W

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P R 200920 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3437

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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JOINT EMBASSY/ USAID MESSAGE

E. O. 11652 N/ A DECLASS 12/31/73

TAGS: EAGR, VS

SUBJECT: PL-480 TITLE I RICE DIVERSION

REF: A. STATE 114025 B. STATE 116326 C. STATE 117799

D. SEOUL 3844 E. SAIGON 104 91

1. OUR CURRENT ASSESSMENT OF IN- COUNTRY STOCKS FOR EXPECTED SHORTAGES IN OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER IS THAT WE WILL NEED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE OF THE 51,000 MT YOU ARE WORKING TO DIVERT FROM KOREA TO INDOCHINA, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE DECEMBER 1 ESTIMATED EARLIEST ARRIVAL DATE OF RICE FROM NEW US CROP AS STATED IN REF A. WE HAD BEEN PLANNING FOR RESUMPTION OF IMPORTS BY NOVEMBER 1 AT THE LATEST AND ON DELIVERIES OF NOT LESS THAN 110,000 MT DURING NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER. TO THE EXTENT THAT TARGET CANNOT BE MET AND/ OR GVN WILL BE ASKED TO DIVERT RICE TO CAMBODIA, ACQUISITION OF ALL THE 51,000 MT BECOMES INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT.

2. MISSION APPRECIATES COMPLEXITY AND DIFFICULTY INVOLVED IN DIVERSION OF RICE AT THIS TIME AND AID/ W' S EFFORTS OUTLINED
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IN REF B, C, AND D TO OBTAIN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED IN
REF E. WE AND GVN WISH TO COOPERATE IN OUR OWN BEST INTERESTS
AND IN REGIONAL COOPERATIVE EFFORT TO RESOLVE RICE SUPPLY PROBLEM.

ANSWERS TO SEVERAL OTHER QUESTIONS WOULD BE MOST USEFUL FOR US
TO ADEQUATELY ADVISE GVN ON COURSE OF ACTION IT SHOULD FOLLOW
IN ACCOMPLISHING DIVERSION OF RICE OR GOING TO KOREA TO
NEGOTIATE. PERHAPS USAID/ KOREA COULD HELP AID/ W AND US OBTAIN
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS AS FOLLOWS:

1. WHAT TYPE IS THE 24,000 MT RICE AID/ W IS ALSO TRYING TO DIVERT?
 2. DOES THE 41.22/ MT COST OF SHIPMENT US TO KOREA REFLECT
US WEST COAST TO KOREA OR EAST COAST OR GULF PORT?
 3. CAN GVN TENDER FREIGHT FOR ITSELF FOR KOREA TO VIETNAM
SHIPMENTS AND FOR SHIPMENT OF 6,000 MT RICE STILL
REMAINING IN US?
 4. WHAT WILL BE THE MONTHLY INTEREST CHARGE ON KOREAN
CLCC LOAN?
 5. WHAT WILL THE TOTAL COST OF DIVERSIONS OF ALL TYPES,
INCLUDING COST OF RICE, TO THE GVN BE AND HOW DOES
IT BREAK DOWN?
 6. WHAT TIME FRAME OF SHIPPING AND ARRIVAL CAN WE EXPECT
TO ACHIEVE AFTER REASHING AGREEMENT?
- ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS WOULD GIVE US AND GVN A MORE WORKABLE
INFORMATION BASE TO CONDUCT REGOTIATIONS AND PERMIT EASIER
EXPLANATION TO GKR IN EVENT OF SUBSEQUENT DIVERSION VIETNAM
TO CAMBODIA.

3. MINECON PHAM KIM NGOC AND ASST. DIR OF COMMERCIAL AID VU
TOAN WILL BE IN WASHINGTON THURSDAY, JUNE 21. AID/ W MAY WISH
TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS RICE DIVERSION WITH THEM AND
THE LIKLIHOOD OF DIVERSION OF RICE TO CAMBODIA PLUS THE
POSSIBILITY OF DIRECT DIVERSION OF SOME RICE FROM KOREA TO
CAMBODIA WITH CONSEQUENT SAVINGS IN COSTS.
WHITEHOUSE

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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